

Volunteerism fills spare time, helps others

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Have you ever wondered what to do with your spare time while you're stationed at the Kun? Many Kunsan Air Base people volunteer their time, in many locations on and off base, in spite of active-duty commitments.

People contribute to the base by coaching and playing in a variety of athletic activities, including baseball, basketball and volleyball.

The chapel also has many programs available to enhance members' spiritual growth and morale both on and off base.

Off base, the orphanage ministry serves many facilities in the Kunsan City area where Wolf Pack members can brighten children's lives, frequently during weekly visits. Visits include having fun with the younger children. Volunteers also help the teen-agers to increase their English skills. Recently, several Kunsan airmen showed the children what their jobs entailed. A major attraction was one of the base's fire engines.

On base, volunteer teachers are involved in the various religious and Bible studies that occur during the week. Choir members are always needed in addition to ushers, lay readers and a variety of other functions to enhance chapel programs and services.

Additionally, the Sonlight Inn program provides an opportunity for a number of Warriors to become involved in leisure activities, and it's a relaxing place to meet new people. Unit volunteers sponsor, prepare and serve meals to one and all at the Inn on Friday evenings free.

Other Warriors teach English to our Korean neighbors. Frequently throughout the year Kunsan members become "ambassadors" for America in the local community with activities including the recent Eun Pa Lake Resort cleanup. Many active-duty members and local civilians worked together to clean up the lake resort area.

In addition, the American Red Cross has volunteer positions available (particularly for currently certified instructors and instructor trainers) in the Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation/First Aid Program, plus other base programs.

Many offices need volunteers with computer skills and organizational abilities. During the holiday season, hundreds of volunteers augmented the post office staff to ensure all cards and packages were delivered quickly.

During the Thanksgiving to New Year's holiday period, volunteers manned a 24-hour hot line called "Heart Line," which ensured Kunsan's personnel had someone to talk to during the holidays season.

Being overseas can be an anxious adjustment for many people. Becoming involved in the community is a good way to meet people, keep skills sharp or learn new ones, and learn your way around the base and local area.

If you choose, you can keep track of your hours and skills for possible future use in other endeavors. The Red Cross has just the system; people can stop into its office in building 755 to complete the necessary forms.

For more information about volunteering, call any of the agencies listed in the article.

Above: Staff Sgt. Kim Heng, 8th Mission Support Squadron, spends time with a little girl at a local orphanage. Right: Master Sgt. David Blackstone, 8th Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Department, plays with Yi, Kwang Chin, who is playing fireman.

